

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Disease Prevention (DDP) *Monthly Ebulletin*



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February 2017 Edition

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VDH ADAP Extended Hours Schedule

The VDH AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) will continue to have extended hours that will remain in effect through February 28, 2017. These hours are as follows:

- 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Monday through Friday)
- 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Saturday)

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Bicillin and Penicillin G Procaine Update

Nationally, Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) and Penicillin G procaine remain in short supply. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to communicate with Pfizer, the only manufacturer of Bicillin in the US, and the US Food and Drug Administration. Fortunately, VDH has not observed a shortage of Bicillin L-A® and will continue to monitor existing supplies and provide updates, as needed. Local health departments, community-based organizations (CBOs), and community-based clinicians are asked to contact Tammie Woodson in the STD Prevention Program regarding Bicillin L-A® shortages within your programs. Tammie can be reached by [email](#) or at (804) 864-7979. The on-line National Network of [STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers \(NNPTC\) STD Clinical Consultation Network](#) is available to clinicians with questions about syphilis clinical management.

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Updated National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan

The [National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2017-2020](#) is our nation's plan for fighting viral hepatitis in the United States. The intent of the Action Plan's goals and strategies is to strengthen our collective national response to hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) infection. The updated plan outlines strategies to achieve four major goals and includes indicators to help track progress between now and 2020.

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VDH Messages

To ensure you receive e-mail messages, such as the DDP E-Bulletin or announcements about funding opportunities, please check that important DDP contacts (such as your contract monitor) are in your address book so that their e-

The goals are:

- **Goal 1:** Prevent new viral hepatitis infections
- **Goal 2:** Reduce deaths and improve the health of people living with viral hepatitis
- **Goal 3:** Reduce viral hepatitis health disparities
- **Goal 4:** Coordinate, monitor, and report on implementation of viral hepatitis activities

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E2Virginia Refresher Webinar Held for All Users Statewide

On January 25, 2017, the e2Virginia Support Team at VDH hosted a refresher webinar for all users of the HIV care and prevention data system, e2Virginia. The purpose of the webinar was to provide refresher training on how to use e2Virginia, along with an introduction to the system's newer features. In addition, the Support Team discussed anticipated developments to the system. The webinar was a success, with over 40 attendees statewide. The e2Virginia Support Team will continue providing technical assistance for users through support@e2Virginia.com, and are also able to provide in-person trainings for agencies on an as-needed basis.

If your agency is interested in an in-person e2Virginia training, contact [Sahithi Boggavarapu](#). If you are an e2Virginia user and have questions on how to use your account, email e2Virginia Support at support@e2Virginia.com.

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Quality Management Upcoming Event

The next Virginia Statewide Ryan White Case Management Retreat is scheduled for March 3-4, 2017, at Richmond Marriott Short Pump Hotel, 4240 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, Virginia, 23060. The retreat is sponsored by VDH and the Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education Training Center Virginia Regional Partners and Virginia HIV/AIDS Resource and Consultation Centers.

The retreat is designed to provide Ryan White medical and non-medical case managers an in-depth learning experience on the integration of quality improvement initiatives with models and systems of case management. The retreat is an opportunity to discuss issues, best practices, and network with colleagues from other parts of the state. Relevant and key case management topics will be covered.

For more information about the Second Annual Two-Day Retreat, please contact [Jennifer Flannagan](#) at (804) 828-2475 or [Safere Diawara](#) at (804) 864-2186.

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NCSD Releases New Fact Sheet related to Third Trimester Pregnancy Screening for Syphilis and HIV

mails are not sent to your spam or junk folders. Check those folders regularly to see if you have missed messages.

ADAP Enrollment Numbers as of 1/31/17

- Total Clients Enrolled: 6,182
- Direct ADAP Clients: 1,530
- Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP) Clients: 571
- Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP) Clients: 516
- Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP) Enrollment Clients: 3,565

2017 HIMAP Enrollment Numbers

- Re-enrolled for 2017 (have all information): 2,846
- New Enrollments for 2017: 412
- Enrolled in ACA in 2016(no 2017 information): 445

Hepatitis C/HIV Treatment Assistance Program Numbers as of 12/13/16

- Total Clients that have Accessed Program: 77
- Clients that have Completed Therapy: 58
- Clients Currently on Treatment: 15

ADAP Listserv

The National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) recently released a [Third Trimester Pregnancy Screening for Syphilis and HIV Fact Sheet](#) that addresses third trimester screening for HIV and syphilis. Sexually active pregnant women are as susceptible to STDs as non-pregnant women, but the health risks associated with infection are higher. Virginia-specific prenatal testing requirements are part of the *Code of Virginia* ([12VAC5-90-130](#)).



To request to be added to the ADAP Listserv to receive updates, please contact [Carrie Rhodes](#) at (804) 864-7914.

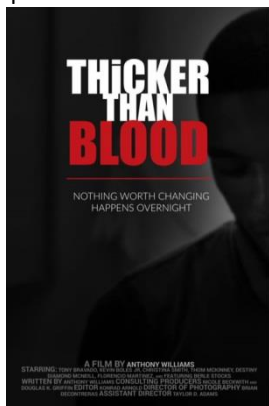
HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

- Clients Currently on VDH PrEP Drug Assistance Program: 73
- [PrEP Services Locator](#)

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Free Film Available for Screening

The Health Equity Program of North Carolina Health and Human Services (NCHHS) partnered with Second Glance Productions to create *Thicker than Blood*, a story about a gay man returning home for the first time in three years. The film shines a light on the stigma and challenges of homophobia existing in the Black/African-American community as well as pre-conceived notions and miseducation around HIV. North Carolina has offered a link to the film to all of its previous CAPUS partners, including Virginia, in observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and Black History Month.



Anyone interested in screening the film will be given access to flyers, a template press release, guidelines from NCHHS to assist in planning screenings, a discussion guide to accompany the film, and evaluation forms to return to

NCHHS. Those interested in organizing a screening of *Thicker than Blood* may contact [Chris Barnett](#) for more information and to secure a link to the film.

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The Community Advancement Project (CAP)

The Community Advancement Project (CAP) meets regionally as an advisory board to assess needs of gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color. CAP has worked to identify health needs including mental health, awareness of PrEP, substance abuse, domestic violence, perceptions of LGBT persons of color in the media, health testing, stigma, access to treatment, and more. If you would like to participate or receive more information, please contact [Joshua Thomas](#).

Molecular HIV Surveillance (MHS) Program Fact Sheet, 2013 – 2015

MHS staff has completed a fact sheet summarizing VDH MHS activities from 2013 through 2015. Information found in the fact sheet includes: total number and subtype of HIV sequences collected and transmitted drug resistance mutations, summary of antiretroviral drug (ARV) resistance by class, and susceptibility levels of all collected sequences to specific ARVs. The fact sheet can be used as a tool for infectious disease providers, public health professionals, and the public to gain a better understanding of molecular HIV trends in Virginia. To download the fact sheet, or for more information regarding MHS, follow this [link](#) or contact [MHS staff](#).

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Extragenital CT/GC NAAT Testing in Eastern

A new initiative associated with HIV prevention funding in Eastern Virginia includes the provision of extra-genital screening via rectal and pharyngeal CT/GC

Stay Connected!

Check out upcoming events on the DDP [HIV Prevention webpage](#). You can request to have your own events added to the calendar and our Facebook page through the Event Submission Form, located on the events page under the events calendar.

For those using a compatible web browser, you may also download the [Event Submission Form](#) directly and submit it following the directions at the bottom of the sheet. “Like” our

testing. Extra-genital infections can serve as reservoirs of infection and increase the likelihood of transmission. Within the first three months of this initiative, more than 200 health department patients had an extra-genital test performed. In total, one in four patients screened were positive for CT and/or GC from any specimen source, and



approximately one-third of men screened rectally were positive for CT and/or GC. As part of this initiative, a guidance document for local health departments, including both specimen handling and resources for patients in self-collection, is available to VDH staff with access to the internal website.

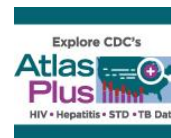
Contact [McKenzie Hall](#) for information regarding new HIV prevention funding initiatives in Eastern. For specific questions related to extra-genital testing or to receive the guidance document, if unable to access the VDH internal website, please contact [Ashley Carter](#).

DDP [Facebook page](#) and share it with your friends to stay connected socially and hear about events throughout the state.

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AtlasPlus Launched!

CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) recently released [AtlasPlus](#), which allows users to use HIV, viral hepatitis, STD, and tuberculosis data from 2000-2015 to enhance data analyses via additional types of maps, charts, and detailed reports.



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PERSONNEL

Welcome

HIV Surveillance welcomes **Jyoti Gupta** as the new HIV Case Surveillance Coordinator. Jyoti previously worked as the outbreak monitoring program supervisor in the Division of Surveillance and Investigation, coordinating surveillance efforts for Zika and Ebola. She holds a Masters of Public Health from Indiana University and was trained as a primary care physician in India. Jyoti started on January 10 and is located in Room 227. She can be reached at (804) 864-8032 or Jyoti.Gupta@vdh.virginia.gov.

Keshawn Brandon joined the Disease Prevention Hotline on January 25, 2017. She has a B.S. in Health Education from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master's Degree in Health Administration from Seton Hall University. Keshawn worked as an HIV Test Counselor at Minority Health Consortium for three years. She enjoys reading and anything that has to do with crafts. You can contact her at 804-864-8010. Welcome Keshawn!

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Congratulations



Agapito Ruiz-Millan was promoted to the position of HIV/STD Hotline Supervisor in January, 2017. Agapito has a Master's Degree in English from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, and brings a wealth of HIV experience from the Florida Department of Health (FDH) where he supervised program staff, conducted HIV training for nurses and CBOs, and provided HIV/STD counseling. Mr. Ruiz-Millan has served in several roles with the Virginia Disease Prevention Hotline, including Senior Health Educator and Acting Hotline

Supervisor. He can be reached at agapito.ruiz-millan@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-8009.

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Personnel Spotlight: Meet the HIV Testing Team

The HIV Prevention Services unit houses the staff responsible for overseeing conventional and rapid HIV testing performed in health districts, other clinical sites and community settings. More than 70,000 publically funded HIV tests are provided in Virginia each year. With test technology constantly changing and a national goal to link HIV infected individuals to care within 30 days of a positive test, the team is busy working to improve services and outcomes for clients and partner agencies. The team's vision is "No Wrong Door"; our concern is not where you get a test as long as you get tested. The testing team is currently working to create more opportunities to expand the availability and accessibility of HIV testing with the goal of increasing testing among men.

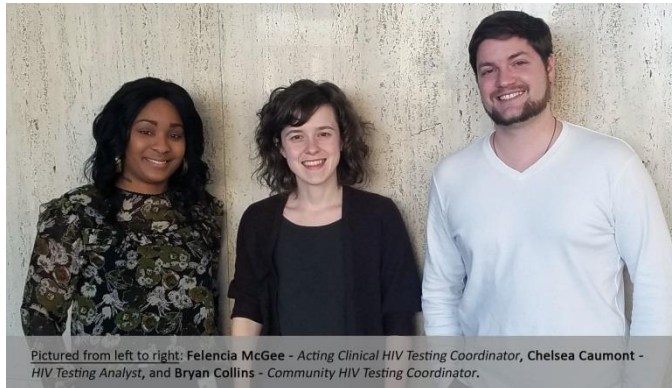
Caroline Campbell, *HIV Testing Program Coordinator*. Caroline oversees all community, clinical, and pharmacy testing, as well as programs provided by Virginia's HIV/AIDS Resource and Consultation Centers. Caroline joined VDH over 30 years ago as a Disease Intervention Specialist, and has held numerous roles throughout her career. Caroline may be reached at Caroline.Campbell@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7978.

Heather Bronson, *Special Projects and Pharmacy Testing Coordinator*. Heather oversees DDP's HIV pharmacy testing program with Walgreens and is focusing on creative partnerships to expand and enhance

Virginia's HIV testing options. She also oversees the Home Test Distribution program. She may be reached at Heather.Bronson@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-8020.



Bryan Collins, *Community HIV Testing Coordinator*. Bryan oversees HIV testing programs at non-clinical testing sites that receive funding or test kits through the Community HIV Testing (CHT) program. He has been with the agency since 2013 and previously worked on the CAPUS grant. Bryan may be contacted at Bryan.Collins@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7948.



Pictured from left to right: Felencia McGee - Acting Clinical HIV Testing Coordinator, Chelsea Caumont - HIV Testing Analyst, and Bryan Collins - Community HIV Testing Coordinator.

Felencia McGee, *Acting Clinical HIV Testing Coordinator*. Felencia oversees HIV testing in federally-qualified health centers, emergency departments, and other clinical sites under the Expanded HIV Testing

program. She is participating in VDH efforts to expand the utilization of third-party billing. Felencia has been with DDP since 2011. Felencia may be reached at Felencia.McGee@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7987.

Chrissy Schlegel, *HIV Testing Specialist*. Chrissy is currently monitoring CBO contracts for the PrEP and Bridges 757 grants in the Eastern region and has quickly become a jack of all trades for the testing team. She previously worked in the ADAP program, and in her past life worked as an archaeologist. Chrissy may be reached at Chrissy.Schlegel@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-8208.

Chelsea Caumont, *HIV Testing Analyst*. Chelsea provides support for HIV Testing program by collaborating on quality assurance projects with the Central Registry Unit, monitoring and collecting testing survey data, and identifying strategies to streamline procedures. You can reach Chelsea at Chelsea.Caumont@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7945.

Micah Daingerfield, *Senior Program Support Tech*. Micah oversees the logistical components of DDP's HIV testing programs, including filling requests for test kits, test forms, and supplies. He has also performed document analysis and editing for DDP Policies and Procedures and the HIV Testing Quality Assurance Manual. Micah can be reached at Micah.Daingerfield@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-8002.

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